IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1-72 (Canceled)

73. (Currently Amended) A signal encoding method comprising:

detecting a high signal level portion of a video signal and/or audio signal in a predetermined time interval; and

blending an identification signal into the video signal and/or audio signal within a low signal level portion temporally before or after the detected high level portion of the video signal and/or audio signal,

wherein the identification signal includes noise-like bits that have identification information at a certain time width that compulsorily sets the least significant bits (LSBs) of an arbitrary number of samples of the video signal and/or audio signal as main data, and

wherein the identification signal is blended into the video signal and audio signal in such a configuration as to be detectable on statistical processing of the video signal and audio signal; and

sequentially embedding the identification signal into the main data.

74. (Canceled)

75. (Currently Amended) A signal encoding method as claim in claim 74, wherein said identification signal is ~~inserted~~ blended into least significant bits of samples of the video signal and/~~or~~ audio signal.

76. (Canceled)

77. (Currently Amended) A signal encoder comprising:

detecting means for detecting a high signal level portion of a video signal and/~~or~~ audio signal in a predetermined time interval; and

~~inserting~~ blending means for blending an identification signal into the video signal and/~~or~~ audio signal within a low signal level portion temporally before or after the detected high level portion of the video signal and/~~or~~ audio signal,

wherein the identification signal includes noise-like bits that have identification information at a certain time width that compulsorily sets the least significant bits (LSBs) of an arbitrary number of samples of the video signal and/~~or~~ audio signal as main data, and

wherein the identification signal is blended into the video signal and audio signal in such a configuration as to be detectable on statistical processing of the video signal and audio signal; and

embedding means for sequentially embedding the identification signal into the main data.

78. (Canceled)

79. (Currently Amended) A signal encoder as claimed in claim 78, wherein said

identification signal is ~~inserted~~ blended into least significant bits of samples of the video signal

and/~~or~~ audio signal.

80. (Canceled)

81. (Currently Amended) A signal transmitting method comprising:

detecting a high signal level portion of a video signal and/~~or~~ audio signal in a

predetermined time interval;

blending an identification signal into the video signal and/~~or~~ audio signal within a low

signal level portion temporally before or after the detected high level portion of the video signal

and/~~or~~ audio signal,

wherein the identification signal includes noise-like bits that have identification

information at a certain time width that compulsorily sets the least significant bits (LSBs) of an

arbitrary number of samples of the video signal and/~~or~~ audio signal as main data, and

wherein the identification signal is blended into the video signal and audio signal in such

a configuration as to be detectable on statistical processing of the video signal and audio signal;

and

sequentially embedding the identification signal into the main data; and

transmitting the video signal and/~~or~~ audio signal into which said identification signal has

been ~~inserted~~ blended.

82-88. (Canceled)